



USAID | MACEDONIA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2007

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Helps to Facilitate Cross-Border Trade with New Electronic System

USAID has assisted the Government of Macedonia in developing and implementing an electronic system for import-export licenses and quotas that will streamline the process to enhance trade. The technical assistance provided through the USAID-funded eGov Project and Business Environment Activity (BEA) will enable Macedonian companies involved in foreign trade to apply and obtain import, export and transit licenses electronically from any of the fifteen issuing institutions. In addition to licenses and quotas, the system will provide electronic submission and processing of the transit customs declarations. The system is available at www.exim.gov.mk.

This yet is another example of the excellent cooperation between the US Agency for International Development and the Government of Macedonia in implementing e-government solutions, which enhance the efficiency and transparency of the public institutions, improving the quality of government services and making Macedonia more attractive to the investment community.

"Import and export procedures are an important component of international ratings of the business environment. It is our expectation that this new system will improve efficiency and make Macedonia even more attractive to foreign investors," says Patricia Rader, USAID Mission Director.

The application is part of the Single Window border crossing system implemented by the Customs Administration of the Macedonian Government. During the summer period, the system will undergo pilot testing; the full-range launch of the system is planned for fall 2008.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.

USAID's e-Gov project assists the Government of Macedonia and its institutions to increase efficiency and transparency by using information and communication technology, thereby helping make Macedonia more attractive to potential investors. For more information, please visit www.eGov.org.mk or e-mail Vanja Mirkovski, e-Gov Press Officer, at vanja@eGov.org.mk.